

NOTE ON MYRINA SIMPSONI, MARSH.

By J. T. MARSHALL.

WITH reference to my paper describing this species¹, I am indebted to Mr. Edgar A. Smith for pointing out to me that he "understands the name *Myrina*, H. and A. Adams, was preoccupied many years ago, but does not see how it is conchologically separable from *Adula* of the same authors." I do not know the genus *Adula*, but my faith in Mr. Smith's conchological instinct is so strong that I have no hesitation in substituting *Adula*, H. and A. Ad., for *Myrina*.

Mr. Smith also writes me that *Adula (Myrina) pelagica*, the type of the genus, was found "off the Cape of Good Hope, attached to floating masses of blubber."

Since my paper on the subject appeared in this journal, a piece of pitch pine, bored by *Xylophaga* and *Teredo*, was landed on the fish-quay of Aberdeen by a trawler, who said it came from the "Shetland fishing-grounds," and in the deserted tubes were *Adula simpsoni* attached by a byssus. This is especially interesting, as the habitat is in complete harmony with that of *A. argenteus*, Jeffr., from frigid water in the Shetland-Faroe Channel. It is probably owing to this concealed habitat that the present specimens are much paler than those originally described. About two dozen specimens were obtained on this occasion, several of which were still alive, and were placed under examination. "They were quite at home in a watch-glass, and travelled by first protruding the foot, and then by contracting it drew the shell along," while under the microscope "the action of the current through the tubes could be seen through the valves of the shell." (Mr. J. Simpson *in litt.*)

A specimen sent me in spirit yielded the following results, which demonstrates that the animal is not far removed from *Modiolaria* :—Body dirty white, viscera light brown; mantle free, plain; incurrent tube formed by the two flaps of the mantle; excurrent tube short, thick, and conical; foot large, white, and tongue-shaped, with a conspicuous groove down the centre for the byssus.

At the time of writing another whale's skull has been landed at Aberdeen by a local trawler, which was brought up "20 miles N.W. of Fair Isle" (between the Orkneys and Shetlands), to which two or three dozen *A. simpsoni* were attached.